

"Mission Kentucky" yields 272 new church starts

by Greg Hodnett, Staff Writer

Is there a church on every Kentucky street corner?

Not yet.

But new preaching points are springing up at the rate of one per week, thanks to a five-year emphasis called "Mission Kentucky."

The Kentucky Baptist Convention (KBC) Direct Missions Department approved a beginning date of 1985 for the church starting program and an ending date of August 1990. However, Bill Jagers, KBC evangelism director, expects the church starting emphasis to continue past the official cut-off date.

Ken Forman, director of church extension in the Direct Missions Department, is working with Jagers in the Mission Kentucky project.

Jagers, who has led and monitored much of the Mission Kentucky project since its inception, cites population growth and redistribution as primary

family dwellings to 'multihousing' units. These are homes where at least six families live on an acre of land. By the year 2000 nearly 50% of the population will live in these multihousing units."

The two-fold purpose of the Mission Kentucky project demonstrates a Kentucky Baptist response to the changing spiritual needs of the state. Jagers presents "starting new churches and missions" as the main purpose for the program, but he adds "getting people out in the places where they live—preaching points" as a secondary purpose.

A preaching point is a place where lost people are invited to mingle with Christians and hear the gospel preached. A church may or may not set a goal of starting a mission or church through a new preaching point. But even if a new church is not established at every intended location, a preaching point promises to yield positive results.

Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington,



Dignitaries gather to celebrate ground breaking at Mallard Point.

(Photo by Bill Jagers)

donated land for a Baptist church near the site of a new elementary school planned to accommodate children of new residents. Georgetown Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association, pastored by Richard Allison, has become initial sponsor of a Mallard Point mission. With other churches pledging support the mission expects to reach out to a community of 2500 to 4000 when area developers have completed their work. Dan Cobb, a home mission catalytic missionary, is acting pastor of the mission.

Also in Elkhorn Association Garden-side Baptist Church, Lexington, pastored by James Heard, began a Hispanic work in November 1988. Mr. and Mrs. Pedro Sayago of Venezuela lead the mission whose attendance was in the mid 20s by April. Donoso Escobar, a professor at Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, and a naturalized citizen from Nicaragua, helped in the ground work as the Hispanic work began to draw people "from the rich to the poor," according to Jagers.

He added, "Lexington has experienced a tremendous growth in population recently and experts expect an additional 4000 to 5000 families to move in there in the next 10 years. This accounts for some of the church growth we have seen recently, including language missions."

First Baptist Church, Richmond, Tates Creek Association, pastored by Curtis Warf, started a mission with a backyard Bible club in 1988. The mission is ready to start another preaching point as well.

North of Richmond new housing has prompted Kentucky Baptist Convention response. The convention has approved a \$7500 grant and a loan of up to

\$100,000 for a new mission.

Jagers points out one mission that "has come full circle." Victory Baptist Church, Pineville, Bell County Association, has "grown very rapidly ever since its birth. Now, under the leadership of pastor Danny Robbins Victory is number two in the state in per capita baptisms. It ranked in the top third (no. 36) overall."

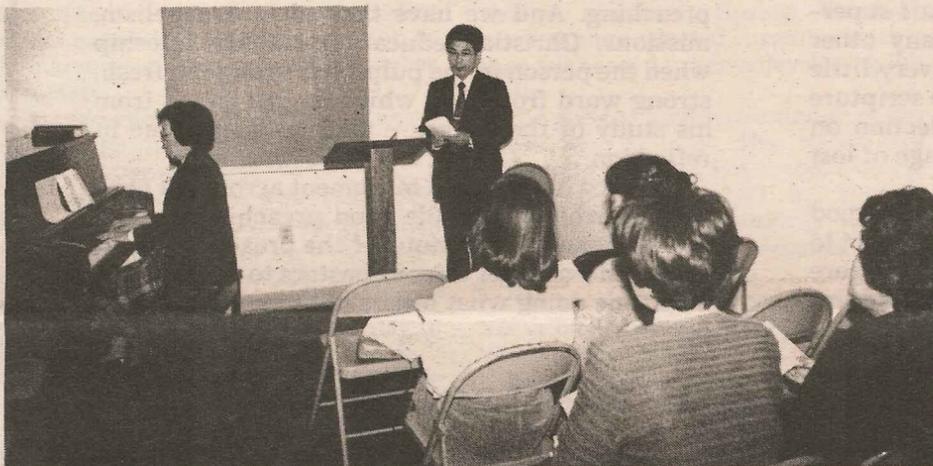
Jagers addressed the continuing needs of Kentucky missions. He listed four counties as targets for new work in the near future.

"A Home Mission Board study of all counties in the United States has decided 250 counties have the greatest needs. Kentucky counties of Pike, Fayette, Floyd and Warren are among them," he stated.

When confronted with the question of continued support for established preaching points Jagers expressed confidence in the missions department at both national and state levels. He said, "I'm sure the Mission Kentucky project won't stop here. We will continue to start new preaching points." Jagers also related, "The missions will receive the support they need so they can be strengthened. Fortunately, not all of the missions will need a great amount of financial support. The ones in affluent neighborhoods with more resources than others will not receive as much financial support from the Home Mission Board or state missions as those with greater need."

By August 1990 Kentucky Baptists must establish 178 more preaching points to meet the Mission Kentucky goal of 400. At the current rate that goal will be surpassed.

That puts Kentucky one step closer to a church on every street corner.



Goki Saito is pastor of the Japanese Mission of Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington. (Photo by Ed Richardson)

reasons for starting new churches in Kentucky.

"Because of the great awareness of Kentucky people, and the fact that we are losing out to population growth, we need to start new churches and preaching points," Jagers insists. He adds, "The number of lost people in Kentucky stands at 1.2 million. Recent probes indicate a shift in population from single

Elkhorn Association, pastored by Ted Sisk, is sponsoring two missions. One is a Japanese work begun in 1988. Goki Saito is pastor and baptized his first convert in April 1989. Cosponsored by Georgetown (Ky.) College, the Japanese congregation meets in the Immanuel facilities.

Immanuel also established another preaching point in the spring of 1988. An average of 70 people attend Southeast Baptist Mission pastored by John Mark Toby. Easter attendance was 148 and the mission has baptized 22 since its inception.

First Baptist Church, Winchester, Elkhorn Association, is sponsoring a mission near Natural Bridge State Resort Park. Jagers says "about 60 families live up the hollow and several of them meet in a mobile home for worship at Nada Baptist Mission." The mission is helping 28 people work toward GED certification.

Villa Hills, pastored by Phil Bradley, is a mission of Ft. Mitchell Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association. Using telemarketing as a primary means of contacting people in the community Villa Hills held its first service in May. The mission, located in a community of 7500 with no church of any kind until now, receives other support from sister churches.

One of the newest communities in Kentucky has sprung up due to the recent building of a Toyota assembly plant in Scott County.

The Smith Brothers, developers of a new subdivision called Mallard Point,



Leaders from Elkhorn Association and the KBC break ground at Mallard Point.

(Photo by Bill Jagers)

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sanford's perspectives

Preaching and the church



Jack D. Sanford

Ask almost any Baptist preacher what his main calling is about and he will say preaching. He has "been called to preach," not called to administer, not called to supervise, not called to build buildings, not called to raise money, even though he does all of this.

And the churches seem to agree that preaching should be the main task of the man who stands in the pulpit every Sunday.

We have seen several survey forms now being used by many search committees and all of them list the qualifications the church wants most in a pastor. At the top of the list in 90 percent of those surveys is "preaching" as the top need and the top want among those church members who respond to the survey. They want a preacher, period!

If this be the case, and it seems to be in most instances, then why do we not allow the preacher more uninterrupted time to prepare himself for what we want most—preaching?

In conversations with several pastors recently we learned what we already knew from years of personal, pastoral experience, namely that the pastor is pressed to do hospital visitation, evangelistic visitation, fund raising, staff supervision, committee recruitment and many other worthy things. But in so doing, he has very little time for deep, concentrated study of the scripture and even less time for thoughtful reflection on what the word of God has to say to an age of lost people.

Perhaps because time is not available for good solid preparation our congregations are subject to long, boring sermons which do not touch the core of life for very many people. We have had recent experience of preaching that went on for 45 min-

utes when most of what was said could have been said in 15 or 20. The preacher in these instances had probably been doing the things demanded by a modern congregation because it was obvious and sadly apparent he had had little time with the Lord in study of the word and even less time in reflecting on what the word declared. Thus he rambled, used old cliches and said the same thing over and over again. He had very little of substance to say to people who desperately need a strong word from the Lord. All of us who sit in the pews are sorry for this situation for we want our preacher to do well and stir us to deeper Christian living.

This then is a plea for preachers to get with what they themselves think is their main calling. It is even more a plea for the people to demand the preacher become a preacher and do not demand he be everything else.

Close to our heart as Southern Baptists is preaching. We love good preaching. We love good preachers. We will listen to preachers who have spent time with God and know what they are talking about. We know when we have heard good preaching. And we have thrived in evangelism, missions, Christian education and discipleship when the person in the pulpit has brought a fresh, strong word from God which he has mined from his study of the scripture and has spent time in reflection.

Let each of us start a movement across our convention which demands good preaching—which can be done in 20 minutes if the preacher is well prepared—and not ask our pastors to spend valuable time doing what others of us can and should do.

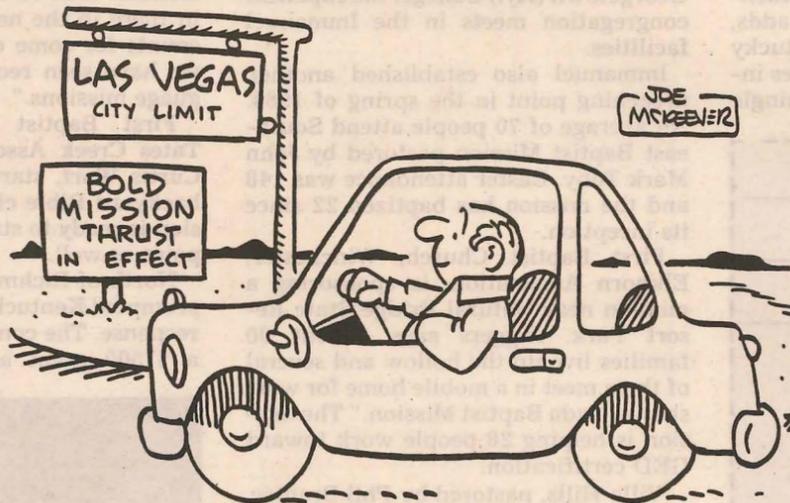
Evangelism is not neglected

Congratulations to the Home Mission Board, the Nevada Baptist Convention and local Nevada churches for the effort to organize an evangelistic thrust preceding the Southern Baptist Convention at Las Vegas this year.

According to reports nearly 2000 Southern Baptists have agreed to come to the convention city at least three days early to share in neighborhood

visitation, door-to-door witnessing and revival services.

Joe McKeever has captured the essence of what this is all about in the cartoon shown on this page. We thank Joe, the Baptists of Nevada and the HMB for helping all of us see that the real work of the convention is witnessing to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.



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Earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.—Jude 3

Spring Meadows residents learn independent living

by Beth W. Prassel

Tammy Alvey works part time as a cashier at Buy-Low Foods, Middletown, and is a junior at Eastern High School. In addition to her regular school classes and her 20 to 25 hours a week job, she enjoys a vocational class in fashion marketing.

Tammy's activities sound like those of a typical teenager. She has a job; she's getting an education and preparing herself for adulthood. In reality, however, Tammy will probably be more prepared for life in the "real world" than the average high school graduate.

Tammy and eight other young people are learning skills for life in the Bridge to Independent Living program, located on the campus of Spring Meadows Children's Home, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Participants in the program accept responsibilities of independent living—responsibilities many high school graduates are not prepared to face. The major goal for each resident is that he/she will learn "to function as an independent and productive member of society."

Tammy entered the program several months ago and says, so far, she has enjoyed everything about it.

"It has shown me how to manage my money . . . and has helped me deal with my parents and friends . . . I try to get other friends to come over [to the Bridge program]." Because of the Bridge program, Tammy says, she will be able to manage on her own when she leaves.

Vicky Nallia, supervisor of the Bridge program since its inception in November 1987, gives much of the credit for its development to Mike Goodwin, director of Spring Meadows.

"Mike felt it important to pursue the development of this program," says Mrs. Nallia. "We were recognizing more and more that the residents we were graduating from our regular program

were not able to cope with and function in our real world."

The philosophy of child care prior to the Bridge program did not include involvement with youth past the age of 18. "We didn't have anything for kids in college or for those who had begun to live on their own," explains Goodwin.

The Bridge "allows us to care for boys and girls past that time when we would have normally said good-bye. Just because they turn 18 doesn't mean they're ready to say good-bye."

When KBHC leaders first discussed the idea of an independent living program, they agreed residents should live off campus. Funding for an off-campus facility was not available at the time but Goodwin saw the need to begin the program immediately.

According to Mrs. Nallia, within one day arrangements were made for the program to begin. The girls living on campus in Hunter Cottage moved to other cottages to provide space for Bridge residents. Spring Meadows workers then selected current residents they felt needed to begin developing life skills.

The cottage holds a maximum of ten youth, ages 17 to 20. Mrs. Nallia says she would probably not accept into the program anyone over 21, but this restriction does not necessarily mean a person must leave the program at age 21 if he/she is not ready.

"We're not just a 'senior' cottage. We've bent over backwards to make this program flexible."

Currently, Mrs. Nallia supervises high school juniors and seniors, college students, vocational and trade school students, students in GED and diploma programs and one resident who works full time. In the past, only current KBHC residents were allowed to enter the independent living program. Now, she accepts direct referrals from outside the homes. She emphasizes that all those ac-

cepted into the program have reached "that age of maturity when they need to go on, to experience [independent living]."

When a youth enters the Bridge program, he/she take several pretests, which are used to evaluate his/her levels of competency in various life skills. These tests, explains Mrs. Nallia, allow each resident to follow an individualized plan of learning. Each resident then begins a series of learning modules, beginning with the ones for which he/she has the greatest needs.

Staff teach and supervise learning of nine modules. "Adult and On Your Own" involves learning about self, family history and the importance of records such as Social Security number and birth certificate. "Getting a Job" covers every aspect of the job market from applying and interviewing to dressing for success. Staff teach residents about checking and savings accounts, taxes, earnings and other information helpful for personal money management in the "Money" module. Other topics include "Apartment Living," "Foods," "Home Management," "The World Around You" (understanding community resources), "Taking Responsibility for Your Health" and "Parenting Skills."

At the end of each module residents take a post test to assess levels of achievement before going on to the next module.

"I look at the entire system as a preventive program," says Mrs. Nallia. Many of the residents have had poor skills modeled for them by their parents. "The majority of residents will become parents after leaving the program . . . If we want to prevent the cycle from continuing, then we need to work with these youth to develop their skills."

To encourage independence, youth in the Bridge program do not participate in campuswide activities as others do. If campus residents attend a Redbirds

game, explains Mrs. Nallia, a Bridge resident may go, but he/she must buy his/her own ticket and provide his/her own transportation. "When he/she leaves here, he/she won't have an organization like the Redbirds to donate tickets . . . and he's/she's not necessarily going to be in a carpool situation."

Residents also purchase their own personal and school supplies at reduced rates. Because most of these supplies are donated to the homes, the money each resident spends goes back into his/her personal savings account. "This provides a way for them to understand that you don't get something for nothing."

The program provides its own banking system, the Bridge Bank and Trust Company. Using sample checks donated by a local bank, residents can make deposits during certain "banking hours," while staff act as bank tellers. Once a resident graduates from the Bridge Bank, he/she opens his/her own account in the local bank of his/her choice.

Because of opportunities like the Bridge program, young people like Tammy Alvey can have the confidence that they, too, will survive in the "real world."



Local ministry helps people "grow" not "go" through divorce

by Lawanda Smith, Staff Writer

"Divorce is the most devastating, painful, humiliating experience of life, even above death. In divorce, someone makes a choice, and that is humiliating. You live with either guilt or rejection."

So says Jenny Byrd, coordinator of a divorce ministry sponsored by Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville.

Miss Byrd, who is herself divorced, says she was fortunate enough to have the support of friends, counselors and the Walnut Street staff to help her regroup and survive. Now it is her ministry to help those going through similar experiences.

Each year the church sponsors two divorce workshops. Miss Byrd is director of a committee who plans the sessions. Jim Cobban, Walnut Street's minister to adults, and Leon Schell, director of the church's singles' department, assist Miss Byrd and others with programs.

Participants in the workshops meet at Walnut Street for three consecutive Wednesday evening sessions. The form for each workshop is the same.

Pastor Kenneth Chafin directs the first session, reminding participants that God still loves them. Miss Byrd says divorced people who have always been active in church may tend to isolate themselves from that community because of shame. It is important for them

to realize that God and church friends still care, she says.

Michael Hester, director of Gheens Family Ministry, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and personal counselor, leads the second session, focusing on developing coping skills and carrying on life as a single adult. He stresses identifying emotions to learn how to cope, not just ignoring emotions or assuming that personal emotions are abnormal. And he emphasizes learning what to do 'with' singleness, not 'about' singleness.

"We like to think of ourselves as friends helping friends."

The final session is conducted by a panel of divorced people who have successfully restructured their lives as single adults. The panel, composed of two women and two men, talk about their own experiences and resources for coping—friends, support groups, therapy, church and God.

Especially during the final session participants are encouraged to ask questions. Yet they are allowed to remain as anonymous as they want. Many choose to write the questions they direct to the panel.

According to Miss Byrd, the divorce workshop leaders don't "force God" on anyone, but they remind people that the ministry is church sponsored and encourage participants to be part of the singles' group because they can receive support there. And they do remind people that God is there as the ultimate resource.

Miss Byrd says attitude is probably the biggest advantage in recovery. "Don't stop believing in yourself," she encourages. "Don't get so wrapped up in failure and a defeatist attitude. Keep saying 'I will, I can, I am going to survive, but I can't always do it by myself.'"

"It takes a strong person to seek support and admit the need for help," she continues. "We like to think of ourselves as friends helping friends, reaching out to hurting people because we've been there ourselves. We direct participants to people who are trained to help professionally when we cannot offer the type of help they need."

After each workshop, a support group formed from seminar participants meets once a week for six weeks. Led by counselor and Southern Seminary student

Scott Wigginton, the group offers continued support to members. Miss Byrd stresses the importance of finding a family of friends or church members.

Though Walnut Street church members attend the workshops, most of the participants come from outside the church. Of the 50 who attended the last workshop, 40 were not church members. Miss Byrd explains, "We are not there to recruit members, but to reach out. People may choose to be part of the church family."

And Miss Byrd terms the program a success in other areas. "Divorced people are everywhere, hurting, and they don't know where to turn," she says. "We like to see them turning to us for help instead of turning to less desirable resources. We see growth after the seminars, and people are able to tell others about the support."

Miss Byrd says she hopes to see 100 or more participate in the October workshop. The ministry is personal to her; she says she has time and energy to use in ministering to others. "I'm just meeting the need when I can. I want to be available," she stresses.

"Divorce can be a growing edge," Miss Byrd concludes. "It is our aim to help people 'grow' through divorce, not just 'go' through it—to look to the future with hope, promise and encouragement, not just to live in the past."



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homes for children

A family should eat together

This month the church we attend, Lakewood Baptist, is placing a special emphasis on the family. A different family shares each week what they have found to be especially helpful.

Yesterday Peggy Hicks, past president of the Kentucky WMU, shared the importance of eating at least one meal together as a family. She noted that with their schedule when the children were growing up that one meal was usually breakfast. It was a time when everybody had a few minutes together.

I believe that is excellent advice. In my own family we have found one of the best times for us to get together is often lunch. I live less than five minutes from the office so I generally go home to eat with SuEllen and the children. I find it one of the best breaks I have ever had in a busy day.

Right now with our children still young and SuEllen at home during the day, it is not hard to get together for a meal. Later on, from observing other families, I believe it will be harder. I am sure events after school and nightly meetings will make it much more difficult for us to get together.

Like Peggy, however, I hope we can focus on sitting down to at least one meal together each day. Families need that face to face contact with each other. In our very busy, hectic world it is often so easy to live in the same house, but hardly ever see one another.

Today families must really work to develop and guard the time they have together. SuEllen and I can hardly believe how quickly our two children have reached the ages of 6 and 4. It seems only yesterday we were into diapers and bottles. Time passes so quickly and there are so many demands on all of us, we must make our families a priority if we are going to have the impact on each other that is so desperately needed.

One of the great things about going to a smaller church is that we all have a chance to interact with individuals who are at different stages in their lives. For so many of the couples with younger children Peggy and Bryant Hicks' description and example of family commitment is a vital challenge for today.

Bellfield Baptist celebrates 100 years

by Jane Taylor Howell

When a church encounters a stumbling block or a hard brick wall, it must go over, under, around or through it.

That's what Bellfield Baptist Church, Green Valley Association, and its community have done in the past 100 years.

May 6th and 7th saw the 100th anniversary celebration of the founding of Bellfield Baptist Church with programs on Saturday, "Remember and Share" and special services on Sunday. Retired pastor E. Keevil Judy was the guest speaker for the Sunday worship service.

"When we were thinking about former pastors to speak, we thought it would be diplomatic to let Dr. Judy speak," said Jerry Tooley, pastor of Bellfield. "No one has been interim pastor three times!

L. M. Huff, director of missions for Green Valley Association, preached an afternoon sermon.

Recognized for the longest tenures as members of Bellfield were Gladys Young Spencer and Malcolm Royster.

Bellfield Baptist Church is just outside the city of Henderson, in the community of Anthoston.

That's the first stumbling block the community faced—finding a name for their community, one that was not already in use. When they applied for a post office there was already a Bloomington, Ky.

H. H. Farmer translated "blooming" into the Greek, getting "anthos" and added the "ton," producing Anthoston, a "city of flowers." Whether officially Anthoston, or formerly Bloomington, the community soon became known as Bellfield because of an old Bell graveyard and spring located in town.

Farmer donated land to build a community church in Bellfield in 1882.

Following revival services in late 1888, a number of converts were baptized into the fellowship of Henderson's

First Baptist Church. Because of these converts and the strong Baptist families in the community, a Baptist church was organized to meet in the Union building.

Mar. 1, 1889 the second obstacle was overcome. With help from First Church, Zion Church and Graves Creek Church, Bellfield Baptist Church was organized separate from the community church.

In the late 1890s certain brethren felt some members were too lax and set out to correct them. With this act the fellowship of the church was weakened. After many low years in fellowship, E. D. Maddox went as pastor in 1909 and brought the membership back up to 122. Another stumbling block was overcome.

In 1944 full time services were begun. The church moved on and a new building was dedicated Apr. 14, 1949. In 1952 an educational wing was added.

In the late 1960s the church sponsored a mission which became Ranger's Landing Missionary Baptist Church.

In 1976 a new auditorium and educational space was constructed and dedicated. In 1986 Sunday school was reor-

ganized and new classes begun.

With the celebration of 100 years, Tooley remarked that it is a time to "remember and reflect on the things that have happened in the past." At the same time he said is it also a call to the present "for us to have a vision of what the church is now and where it needs to be."

Tooley showed the children the minutes of the founding of the church. He told them in children's worship, "The future is with you children and youth who will take up this work."

During Sunday services the church read and reflected on the original church covenant adopted Mar. 1, 1889;

... That we will as the Lord prospers us generously and faithfully contribute of our means to aid in supporting the preaching of the gospel at home, to relieve the poor and to send missionaries to preach the gospel to them that have it not, and through life amid evil and good report, we will earnestly and humbly seek to live to the glory of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.



(l-r) E. Keevil Judy, Leland Hall, Bert Williams and Carl Wright

Prestonsburg dry forces make moral impact

by Glenn Mollette
State Correspondent

Dry forces in the city of Prestonsburg made some impact Apr. 22 by defeating two out of eight precincts where alcohol was sold.

Last August the city council voted five to four with the mayor casting the deciding vote to make liquor by the drink available in the county seat town.

"We were disappointed about the council's decision," said Steve Hopkins. Hopkins is pastor of First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg, and chaired the

fight to defeat liquor by the drink in his city.

Hopkins explained, "We soon began to consider our options after the council's decision. We decided to circulate petitions to see if we could lead the eight precincts to go dry. We needed 25% of the number of persons who voted in the last general election to sign a petition. The petitions were collected and presented to the county judge."

The petitions were filed Feb. 22 with voting day set Apr. 22.

"We wanted to keep the local politicians out of it," observed Hopkins. "This

was accomplished by having it before the election."

A disappointment came when the county ministerial association voted 7-4 not to support the dry forces. Hopkins pointed out that the seven who voted against the dry effort were five Catholics and two Presbyterians. The four who voted to support the effort were Hopkins, another Southern Baptist minister, one Methodist minister and a Freewill Baptist minister.

Hopkins expressed his greatest disappointment over the election. "I was naive enough to believe people would vote for what was right instead of what was profitable."

However the sun shines beyond every cloud and some good was achieved. Hopkins noted the positive: "Our church and several others took a stand. We've had several people who have been attending our church because of our stance. Secondly, at least three establishments will have to quit selling alcohol because of the vote. One notorious place in the city known as the Wildcat Lounge was in one of the two defeated precincts. A few weeks ago a woman who had apparently passed out from intoxication was left on the floor of the lounge. The next day she was found dead.

"The very fact that we were able to shut down that place was a moral victory to our group," affirmed Hopkins.



Steve Hopkins, Prestonsburg First Baptist pastor, brings a ray of sunshine to the community by helping close the Wildcat Lounge.

mountains to the mississippi



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

The bottom line

Question: What's the real reason the SBC Executive Committee, at this point, plans to present a recommendation at the SBC annual session next month requiring an expenditure of \$600,000 to \$800,000 to create a Religious Liberty Commission (RLC) duplicating the spirit and intent of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJCPA)?

Answer: The bottom line is to bypass the BJCPA and silence outspoken executive director James Dunn for stands not in keeping with those held by two-thirds of the SBC Executive Committee.

We were astounded last February at the Executive Committee meeting in Nashville to receive a 16-page document detailing charter, bylaws and program statement of an agency (RLC) which does not exist and has never been approved by Southern Baptists! SBC agencies are created when a majority of messengers at two consecutive annual meetings vote for them. Yet, the Executive Committee openly discussed plans to establish the new agency Oct. 1, 1990—after the next two SBC meetings—and offered documents to start it rolling, running well ahead of the constituency it represents.

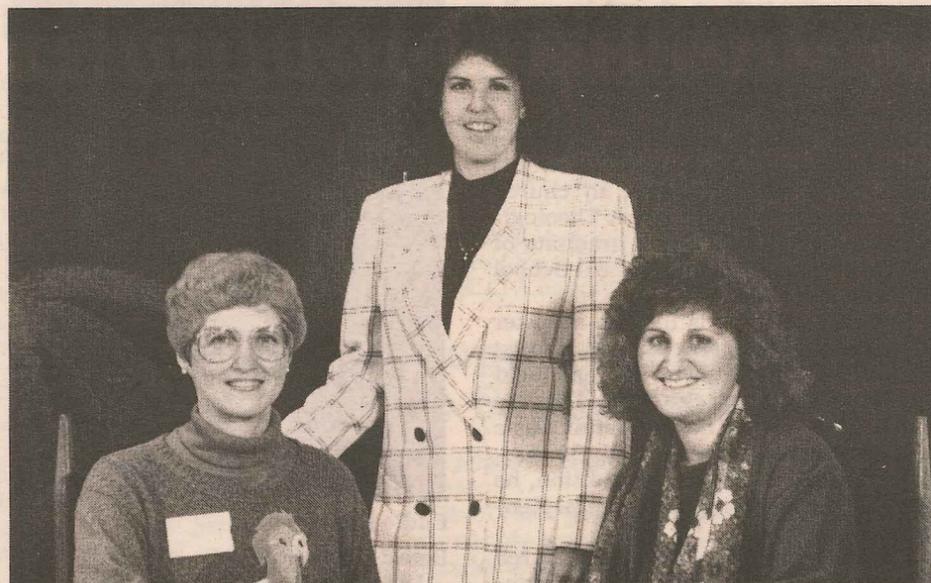
At the close of a two-hour debate on whether to recommend the new agency, Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president, eloquently pleaded: "At a time when giving is down sharply and all of our mission work is curtailed, in my best judgment, to spend this kind of money to duplicate what we're doing already will significantly reduce all of our mission efforts."

Parks sat down and the Executive Committee voted. The outcome: 42-27 to establish the new agency, requiring the better part of a million dollars to be free of Jimmy Dunn's influence.

The Executive Committee has, in the writer's opinion, acted hastily and irresponsibly, disregarding the best interests of all Southern Baptists. For 50 years the BJCPA has addressed church-state issues, adhering closely to historic Baptist beliefs while wielding the clout of nine Baptist bodies on congressional hill.

Swift negative reaction from many quarters to the Executive Committee's proposal prompted SBC president Jerry Vines to ask that panel to delay its recommendation. We believe this is reason enough for another look at BJCPA.

If the Executive Committee persists, perhaps enough of us will stand up in Las Vegas—as we have often done before—to say we are satisfied with the BJCPA and with Jimmy Dunn. In so doing we will alert small groups that they need not make extensive plans for Southern Baptists until we've told them to proceed.



Three Kentucky writers attended the 1989 writers' conference at Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala. (l-r): Brenda Price, Middletown; Gladie Green, Versailles; and Dawn Richerson, Louisville.

(Photo by Clay Allison)

revivals

Finley Baptist Church, Green Valley Association, held revival Apr. 16-21. Joe Mobley, London, Ky., was evangelist and Harold Moore, Owensboro, was song leader. Six professions of faith and 21 rededications were reported. Pastor is James L. Murphy Jr.

New Hope Baptist Church, Little River Association, held spring revival and reported four professions of faith, seven additions by letter and eight rededications. Johnny Tucker, Citronelle, Ala., was evangelist. Jimmie Gibbs is pastor.

personnel

Melissa Stephens is new part time minister of youth at Ft. Mitchell Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association.

Leslie Baker, pastor of Hebron Baptist Church, Caldwell-Lyon Association, retired in April. He was ordained in 1956 by Poole Baptist Church, Little Bethel Association. He attended Clear Creek

and Cumberland College. Baker pastored in Ohio and in several associations in Kentucky: Daviess-McLean, Muhlenberg, North Concord, Little Bethel, Blackford, Caldwell-Lyon. Baker and his wife live in Princeton and he is available for supply and revival at (502) 365-2708.

Rockford Lane Baptist Church, Long Run Association, called **Ronald Abrams** of Missouri as pastor. He begins June 11.



Buck Run Baptist Church, Franklin Association, celebrated a note burning service Apr. 2. The note was for the new educational complex. (l-r): Barbara and Mike Rutledge, newest members; Evelyn Hockensmith, oldest member; and pastor John R. Charles.

christian education

Georgetown College

Georgetown College presented three alumni with its alumni achievement award at an alumni buffet May 12.

Recipients: George Lusby, Georgetown; Jon Shephard, Lexington; David Adkisson, Owensboro.

Lusby, a 1958 graduate, has been a school administrator in Scott County 23 years. He has been on the Georgetown City Council 26 years and has been involved in the Little League program. He is a deacon at Georgetown Baptist Church.

Jon Shephard, a 1961 graduate, is chairman of the University of Kentucky's Department of Management, and associated with the departments of sociology and business administration. He is a member of the American Sociological Association and the American Academy of Management.

Shephard is author of 11 books and

has been a consultant for many organizations.

David Adkisson, a 1973 graduate, is mayor of Owensboro. He has been executive vice president for the Owensboro-Daviess County Chamber of Commerce and U. S. Sen. Wendell Ford's first statewide field representative. He also is chairman of Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education.

Stetson University

A \$2.08 million gift from the M. E. Rinker Sr. Foundation of West Palm Beach, Fla. will fund a new institute for tax and accountancy at Stetson University's School of Business Administration.

The total gift currently pledged is nearly \$3 million when added to a prior 1986 commitment from the Rinker Companies Foundation, Stetson officials announced.

Russell Cole is camp program director for Camp Rabro and Jonathan Creek this summer. The Brandenburg, Ky. native is son of Rev. and Mrs. Donald R. Cole and a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn. He is an MDiv in CE student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Cole was assistant program director in 1986, 1987 and 1988.

congregations

Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association, celebrated pastor Colburn Hooten's 25th anniversary May 21. Events included dinner on the grounds, guest speakers and recognition service.

Morgantown First Baptist Church, Gasper River Association, will celebrate its centennial May 28 during morning worship. Histories will be available for \$25 from First Baptist Church, Box 444, Morgantown, KY 42261. Pastor is Kenneth O. Willoughby.

New Hope Baptist Church, Central Association, will observe its annual homecoming May 28. Former pastor M. L. Hahn will bring the morning message. All former pastors and members are invited. Dinner on the grounds will follow morning worship and a gospel sing is scheduled for the evening. Pastor is Isaac Ferguson.

A major activity for the new tax and accountancy institute will be an annual national seminar for tax lawyers and accountants on current tax-saving legislation and procedures.

Southern Seminary

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has announced W. Loyd Allen as assistant professor of church history effective June 1.

Allen has been assistant professor of Christianity at Brewton-Parker College, Mt. Vernon, Ga., since 1984. He holds the BS degree from University of Montevallo, Ala., and the MDiv and PhD degrees from Southern Seminary.

While in seminary, he pastored Rolling Fork Baptist Church, Gleanings, and was ecumenical campus minister at Belknap College, Louisville. He and his wife Elizabeth have one daughter.

baptist news in brief

Howell fills KBC church music position

The third of six persons to fill part time positions in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Music Department has been employed.

According to Jim Cordell, director of the department, Eddie Howell of Elizabethtown has accepted the position as adult music contract consultant.

Howell, 30, is married to the former Jacqueline Wise, a teacher at Elizabeth-

SBC leaders predict low attendance in Las Vegas

Interest apparently is lagging for the 1989 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to an informal survey of convention observers.

"I can't see any enthusiasm from either side for the Las Vegas, Nev., convention," says one.

If projections are correct, the 1989 annual meeting, scheduled June 13-15 in Las Vegas Convention Center, will be one of the smallest in a decade.

Registration secretary Lee Porter and Convention Manager Tim Hedquist, both of Nashville, agree messenger totals for the session probably will not top 18,500 and may even dip as low as 15,000 or 16,000. Conservative leaders predict between 16,000 and 18,000 messengers, while other observers say attendance may sag as low as 12,000 or 13,000.

If the lower figures are correct, the Las Vegas meeting could be the smallest since Pittsburgh in 1983, when 13,740 were present. It surely will be smaller than 1985 in Dallas—the all-time record—when 45,519 messengers registered. (BP)

town High School. They are the parents of one son, Travis Neal.

Howell holds a bachelors degree in church music from Campbellsville College and a masters degree in church music from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is also a graduate of the United States Army Element School of Music, Norfolk, Va.

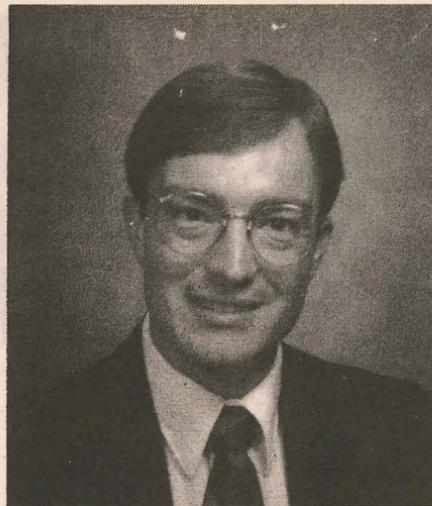
Presently Howell is interim minister of music, Youngers Creek Baptist Church, Elizabethtown. He has held music positions for the United States Army, Ft. Knox and has been staff music coordinator for Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Conference Center. In addition, he has held music positions in several Kentucky churches.

Howell's duties with the Church Music Department will include planning, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive adult music program for churches and associations. He will emphasize training and skill development with knowledge of Sunday School

Utah-Idaho elects exec director-treasurer

C. Clyde Billingsley, director of evangelism for the Florida Baptist Convention, has been elected executive director-treasurer of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

Billingsley, 48, will take office Sept. 1, succeeding Darwin E. Welsh, who announced his resignation as executive during the 1988 annual meeting after nearly two decades of leadership. Welsh will work with Billingsley until the 1989 annual meeting in November and then retire.



Eddie Howell

Board literature.

Howell is one of six employees approved to fill a full time position divided into six part time positions last fall. Restructuring the associate's position provides six consultants in specialized areas.

George Slaughter, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Mountain Home, Ida., and convention president, chaired a five-member search committee that nominated Billingsley for the post. The committee considered 10 nominees.

The 19-member Utah-Idaho Baptist executive board elected Billingsley without opposition during a meeting May 5.

Billingsley, a native of Knoxville, Tenn., attended Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. (BP)

Kentuckian now head of B'hood communications

In the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission's spring meeting, Brotherhood president James Smith announced he had named World Mission Journal-Baptist Men Editor Jim Burton to a new position, director of communications. Burton will continue to edit the Journal.

A communications audit of the Brotherhood Commission completed last year concluded the organization needed a director of communications to maximize its communications efforts.

Burton, who joined the commission in 1986, will coordinate the total communications effort of the commission, primarily as it relates to news and information services.

The Madisonville, Ky., native is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., and Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green. (BP)

Brotherhood Commission erases budget deficit

The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission erased a \$159,402 budget deficit during the previous six months, commission trustees learned during their spring meeting.

That deficit was reported, and a \$150,000 budget reduction for the current year was approved during trustees' fall meeting last year.

"We're in good shape this year," Brotherhood president James Smith told the trustees' executive committee. "At the end of the past six months, we had \$177,023 more income than we had spent."

The October deficit was due to several factors, Smith said. They included costs of start-up for new materials, inadvertent underpricing of new materials and assumption of \$86,000 indebtedness of the National Fellowship of Baptist Men.

In addition Baptist Book Store inventory of Brotherhood materials was kept at lower levels than usual last fall due to the consolidation of regional mail-order centers to Nashville. The commission also wrote off \$40,000 in outdated materials at the close of the 1987-88 budget year.

"We're going to add a 3.8 percent increase on new products," he said, noting the price hike is the first for the commission in three years.

Trustees also approved a \$3,132,788 budget for 1989-90, a cut of \$12,012 from the budget they approved a year ago. (BP)

Panama missionaries taking added precautions

With additional United States troops being sent to Panama, escalating tension has prompted at least five Southern Baptist missionary couples to relocate temporarily near the U. S.-protected Canal Zone, according to Jackie Cooper, chairman of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Panama.

"We're pulling most of our missionaries into the Balboa area," Cooper said in a May 12 telephone interview. Balboa is on the west side of Panama City near five U. S. military bases and the Panama Canal.

On the morning of May 11, Cooper had reported that Southern Baptist missionaries in Panama felt no danger. That changed during the day.

"We were encouraged by Panamanians to leave the smaller towns," Cooper said. The missionaries' Panamanian friends voiced concern over unpredictable paramilitary gangs like that which bloodied opponents of ruler Gen. Manuel Noriega May 10.

"We're not part of the evacuation that's been reported in the States," Cooper emphasized. "We're taking some contingency measures among ourselves because of the uncertainties of what might happen."

"There was no violence reported yesterday," he said, "but we don't know what next steps the (Noriega) government might take. We don't know what steps even our (U. S.) government might take. We know that the U. S. is sending troops down here, which will escalate tensions," Cooper said.

Cooper said the missionaries hope to return to their homes as soon as possible. "We're hoping there's going to be some sort of negotiated settlement so things will get back to normal," he said. "But if that doesn't work out, we just don't know how long this might last." (BP)

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Parenting overseas: the other side of prayer, faith and challenge

Missionary parents cope with stress as many Christians do—through faith and prayer. But these aspects of Christian life have special meaning to foreign missionaries Archie and Caroline Jones.

Parenting overseas presents unusual and exciting family challenges. "I feel a tremendous responsibility trying to weigh my role as a missionary and as a parent," said Mrs. Jones about raising their five-year-old adopted Chilean daughter Libby.

"It would be easy to be available for everybody and everything and the thousands of jobs that need to be done and not be available for Libby," said Jones. "I catch myself having to put on brakes as a missionary, and go back into 'parent ear.'"

While there are many similarities to families everywhere, foreign missionaries have unique child-rearing concerns.

"Last furlough, Libby was in the back seat of a car with a cousin who handed her a penny," said Jones. "She said, 'How sweet. It has a picture of Jesus on it.' She was informed by her four-year-old cousin that it was a picture of Abraham Lincoln.

"We want Libby to think like North American's think," continued Jones, "so we are beginning to work on teaching North American history and celebrating North American holidays—even though the world around us doesn't."

Missionary parents also see positive aspects in raising children overseas.

"We could put Libby in the worst school at the end of the tiniest dirt road in Chile and still she's growing up with some super advantages that she wouldn't have if we weren't missionaries," said Mrs. Jones. "She's growing up trilingual because of speaking English in the home, Spanish as the national language and German taught in her school. She is bicultural, a world traveler and knows more about math at age five than I did in the eighth grade."

Missionary parents experience loneliness as they are isolated from their own parents and siblings. It is difficult to share in important family experiences. When illness strikes loved ones in the United States, missionary families must deal with feelings of helplessness, discouragement and sometimes anger. Mrs. Jones recalled her feelings when a grandmother was facing surgery.

"I let myself have a good cry and things started coming back to me. Things I had learned from my family in childhood like Matthew 19:29, 'Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother . . . will receive a hundred times as much . . . There was enough faith on the inside, a solid real foundation, knowing that I may be a long way from family but I'm not a long way from God.'"

Campus ministers look to future in Las Vegas

Southern Baptist campus ministers will look to the future when they convene in Las Vegas, Nev., June 11-12.

"Going, Weeping, Sowing, Reaping—Looking Toward 2000" will be the theme for the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers annual meeting at First Southern Baptist Church. The meeting is one of more than a dozen conferences scheduled in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, also in Las Vegas, June 13-15.

"We are seeking to set up a motivation for our campus ministers in the area of personal concerns on campus, as well as expanding our vision for world evangelism," said Hal C. Burke, president of the association. "We've got to begin somewhere, so we really want to encourage our group to deepen that personal commitment."

The association will hear from Lloyd Elder, president of the Sunday School Board, who will speak on "The Future of Student Ministry," said Burke, director of Baptist campus ministry at Florida State University. "We invited Elder to see where we fit in the larger picture.

"I remember hearing Kenneth Chafin (pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.) say, 'It's time we quit doing everything for everybody and start doing something for somebody.' Therefore, my desire is that we help ourselves as individual campus ministers and hopefully for that to ripple out to other campus ministers—this burden for the lost people, particularly in our area.

The conference will feature "professional pilgrimages" told by campus ministers from across the country, Burke said.

In addition to Elder, keynote speakers will be Glenn Saul, ethics professor at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Semi-

nary, Mill Valley, Calif., who will address "Ethical Issues for the '90s," and Al Stagg, pastor of First Baptist Church, Portales, N. M., who will portray German pastor/martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer looking at "Life in the Church Today."

Worship leader will be Scott Walker, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charleston, S. C. A banquet will feature Tommy

Starkes, pastor of Tropicana Baptist Fellowship, Las Vegas, and other local Christian entertainers.

The conference also will include small-group seminars on loneliness, human sexuality/homosexuality, a theological update, "stages of faith" and an orientation for new campus ministers. (BP)

Baptist Sunday School Board pays tribute to Sunday school lessons writer Hobbs

Herschel H. Hobbs is a man of many words.

The 11,088 pages of Bible study commentary he has written in more than two decades attest to that.

Hobbs has completed 84 quarterly issues with 1092 lessons as writer of Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons, a quarterly Sunday school lesson commentary in the Life and Work Series published by the Sunday School Board's Sunday School Division.

That work alone makes him perhaps the most widely published writer of Sunday School Board material. But the well-known Southern Baptist statesman also has written more than 124 books and other materials.

The board will pay tribute to Hobbs with the July-August-September issue of Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons. That issue completes 21 consecutive years of the commentary with

Hobbs as its only writer. The board also is noting Hobbs' 60 years as a minister and his 82nd birthday.

Retired Sunday School Board president James L. Sullivan recounts how he selected his former seminary classmate to begin writing the commentary.

As pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Hobbs already had been preparing mimeographed materials for his own Sunday school teachers. Many people from other churches were requesting copies of the material.

Hobbs said he thought perhaps 25 to 50 churches would want copies of his commentary. "It wound up we were mailing the notes out to about 250 churches every week," he said.

The Sunday School Board publication of the commentary began with the October-November-December 1968 edition. Sales now are approaching 100,000 copies per quarter. (BP)

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Jerry Brentham: working out for missions

by Jim Burton

In the training rooms and fitness centers of America, entrepreneur Jerry Brentham has made his presence known.

From linebackers to housewives, he has a message for anyone who needs a good workout—the more you do with what you have, the more God will give you to do with.

It sounds so much like scripture that some people who have bought his hydraulic exercise equipment have complained. But it's not holy scripture. It's just the gospel according to Jerry.

The gospel this Baptist layman preaches is a simple one—you can't out give God. It's a gospel he learned once he discovered his spiritual gift during a lay renewal weekend.

"As a result of the Lord dealing with our lives that weekend," said Brentham, "we have come to realize our gift. That gift is giving."

Brentham was a high school football coach who wanted to reduce injuries that occur during training and to create a more efficient workout. He began experimenting with hydraulics, designing machines that build strength through resistance.

He left coaching when he found a manufacturer for his equipment. But the business arrangement failed.

That failure created bitterness in Brentham. He was serving as music director at First Baptist Church, McGregor, Tex., when he met Bob Dixon, director of Texas Baptist Men, and learned about church renewal.

During the weekend, Brentham shared his bitterness concerning the business venture. The manufacturer was producing and selling the equipment but not paying him a royalty.

"An old gentleman about 76-years-old shared with me that maybe God wanted that company to manufacture and sell it and wanted me to give up that machine," recalled Brentham.

Once Brentham confessed his bitterness, he felt a strong desire to study the Bible.

"I got into the word and I began to study," said Brentham. "I experienced a renewal in my life that I had never experienced before. That was that God could use me as a layman and I didn't have to go out and preach. I could be used on a day-to-day basis right where I was."

Several years later, Brentham and his wife Donnie started the business again. With the formation of Hydra Fitness Unlimited, they made a commitment to God.

"We realized that God wanted us to start the business all over again," said Brentham. "We committed five percent of our gross sales to the Lord, as a stewardship means."

Today that commitment has meant giving up to \$350,000 per year above their tithe to support missions.

Brentham said people have asked if he regrets making commitment, now that the sum is so large. He said no.

"The commitment I made wasn't \$350,000. The commitment I made was five percent of nothing," he said.

The Brenthams have supported numerous missions causes and youth ministries. They have also designated funds for special projects at their home church, First Baptist, Belton. But Brentham's ministry goes beyond giving.

"When we first started our business, we wanted this to be God's business," he said. "We wanted it to be run the way

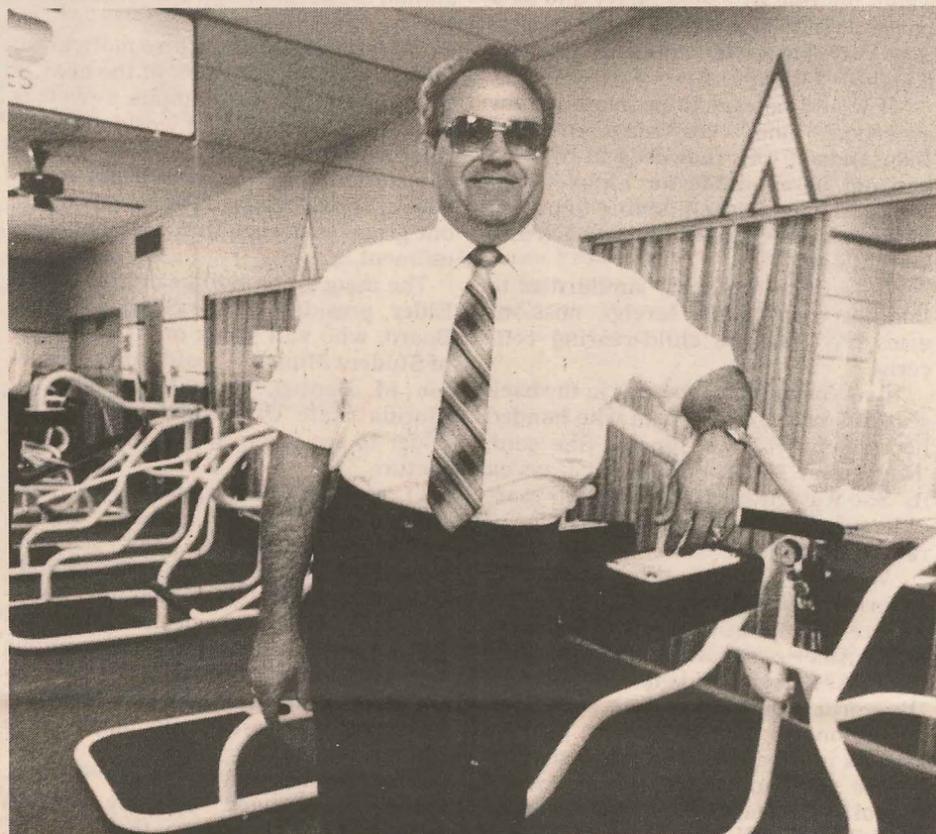
he'd want us to run it."

Because of his commitment to marketplace ministry, Brentham schedules a devotion each Thursday, normally led by his pastor, Andy Davis.

"The employees are not required to come to that Bible study but it is there and available to them if they want to come," said Brentham.

Through business contacts, both domestic and international, Brentham has shared his faith in God.

"We were dealing with the Chinese, selling equipment there initially," recalled Brentham. "We had the opportunity to share with them in some very subtle ways, but mainly sharing with them that God is real."



Jerry Brentham manufactures exercise equipment and donates a portion of the income to missions.

(Photo by Bill Bangham)

Brotherhood trustee tackles pastoral ministry

by Jim Burton

Dow Wood is a big man, almost too big for Maryland, the state he calls home. Certainly too big for the 1977 Mazda 323 two-door he drove over 180,000 miles throughout Maryland and Dela-

ware promoting Brotherhood.

He's big enough to tackle tough ministries. But not so big he can't kneel down and pray with someone who is hurting.

Within that 6-foot-2-inch frame, worn from years of construction work, is a bivocational pastor with a heart for

missions that was first nurtured when he was a 25-year-old military man.

"I had been a leader of volunteers in the service," recalled Wood, "and I felt there was no reason why those same abilities could not be used in the Lord's work."

Stationed in Belleville, Ill., in 1949, he was influenced by the ministry of E. P. Pratt. Wood says Pratt dreamed that one day church members would get out of the pew and begin to minister like ministers.

That exposure as a young man to lay ministry led to Wood's active participation in missions.

"Saturday afternoons were street service, singing and current testimony," recalled Wood, age 60. "Sunday afternoons we'd do nursing homes. One evening a week would be a jail service. Then we'd make calls on senior citizens a couple nights."

Wood describes the years following his time in Belleville as "sort of like a roller coaster." Secular employment took him to Maryland.

"With the change about 10 years ago in church renewal," said Wood, "it brought back to me everything that Pratt had been trying to teach us. Because of it, I believe stronger in mission programs than most people do."

Wood is now unable to spend Sundays on the road speaking to Baptist Men's breakfast meetings. Instead, the Brotherhood Commission trustee fills the pulpit at Fruitland Baptist Church

near Salisbury, Md.

The church had suffered some difficult experiences. It was broke and without a pastor. Two of the three deacons had been active in associational Brotherhood work and knew Wood. They asked him to preach.

"I had to turn them down," said Wood. "The next Tuesday or so I found out that because I hadn't spoken they hadn't gotten anybody else."

Wood, who began preaching in 1949, soon began supply preaching regularly at Fruitland Baptist. He has since been called as pastor and has been ordained. He accepts no salary, but does receive a car allowance.

Wood and his wife Mary are committed to nurturing Fruitland Baptist back to health—both financially and as a ministering church.

"One of the things we wanted to do was not only tithe, but double it," said Wood. "It amounts to Mary and I giving this church the same salary they were giving the predecessor."

But their greatest investment is in the lives of other people—both in the church and on the job.

"I've got one boy at work who was severely burned as a child; his mother abandoned him and left him in the flames," said Wood. "He needed someone to listen and talk to like a father would. By working with people you have an opportunity to talk to them."

And when the big man talks people listen.



Dow Wood, center, receives new church members into the fellowship of First Baptist Church, Fruitland, Md., where he serves as a bivocational pastor.

(Photo by Jim Burton)

baptist forum

Friendly competition

Two Green Valley Association churches concluded a 13-week Sunday school contest Apr. 30. Zion Baptist Church, Henderson and First Baptist Church, Morganfield, engaged in a "Fishing for Folks" contest with the emphasis on contacts and increased enrolment.

Zion increased enrolment to 637, up 48 and Morganfield increased to 406, up 30. Average attendance at Zion increased from 266 to 319 and Morganfield climbed from 198 to 220. Morganfield earned the most points but both churches considered themselves winners.

A fish fry concluded the contest with Jack Palmer, KBC Sunday School Department, as speaker, with 300-400 people present.

Daniel Garland is pastor at Zion and Stephen Thompson is pastor at Morganfield. Leonard Wagers and Samuel Newman are ministers of education at Zion and Morganfield, respectively.

Bonnie Howard, Secretary
Zion Baptist Church
Henderson

Help for military academy students

The Baptist Student Union at the United States Air Force Academy would like to contact the men and women coming to the Academy June 28-29. We would like to meet their plane, provide lodging and transportation and take them to the Academy. Many will arrive on June 28 and will need a place to stay overnight. The BSU will provide free lodging, therefore saving the cost of a motel. We would also like to meet those coming June 29 and provide transportation to the Academy.

If pastors, parents, friends or the new cadets themselves will contact us with name, address and telephone number we will correspond with them to secure flight arrival times and provide further

information.

Please write us at 550 W. Woodmen Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80919 or call (719) 599-9094.

For anyone attending West Point or the Naval Academy similar ministries are provided. At West Point contact Alton Harpe, 11 Washington Street, Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12520, or call (914) 534-7954. At the Naval Academy contact Dick Bumpass, 201 Hanover Street, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call (301) 263-0963.

Dwain Gregory
Colorado, Springs, CO

Laymen at work for the Lord

Since Apr. 1 we have completed five lay led revivals and the next one is scheduled for September at Shively Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, with a request for 25 men to help in this revival.

We have been in Cold Springs Baptist Church, Cold Springs; West Broadway, Louisville; Palestine, Campbellsville; Mexico Baptist Church, Mexico; and Clifton Heights, Louisville. We saw 37 people saved in these five revivals.

Four of our people from First Baptist Church, Brandenburg, are going to Las Vegas to work in the crusade before the SBC meeting.

Russ Adkisson
Brandenburg

Half truths are painful

I regret Charles Smith did not do more research before making charges about ACTS in his letter of May 2. Often half truths, as in this case, are more damaging than outright falsehoods.

The ACTS network depends on the willingness of cable systems to provide a delivery system into a community. ACTS, unlike some networks, does not pay the cable systems. We must depend on their willingness to provide a channel

for our use. That means we must meet the programming and technical standards other program services must meet.

More than 1200 churches in 350 communities have joined to add their programs to the channels in their areas. No other religious network does that. One of the weekly programs on ACTS is produced by the ACTS affiliate in Smith's own city.

ACTS and the RTVC are closely related to other Baptist agencies. The two mission boards and two of the SBC seminaries have regular programs on ACTS. The Brotherhood Commission and the Home Mission Board use ACTS for mission teleconferences. ACTS and BTN are cooperating to provide coverage of the SBC. Since little bragging is done about these and other projects on which we work together, it is easy to see how Smith might jump to the conclusion that ACTS is independent of other agencies. He could have asked, however.

Richard T. McCartney
Executive vice president
Radio and Television Commission
Dallas, TX

A distressing experience

The most distressing experience in my long career as a professional educator was in serving on the advisory council of our special school for pregnant girls. It was gratifying to share in those belated efforts to aid our troubled children. But it provided a frightening focus on a total society that is vastly more troubled than its children—a society wallowing in sexual promiscuity, perversions and obsessions.

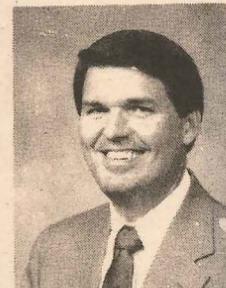
Our children are receiving the most and the worst sex education in history both in and out of school. One sex education teacher stated bluntly that all her course could teach beyond some basic biology was how to be "safe, satisfied and sanitary" and that it was failing at that! Moral concerns, if any, are decided by secret ballot or by counting raised hands.

One study showed that in a period of seven years teenagers in sex education classes quadrupled while premarital sex among teens in those classes increased 50% and premarital pregnancies escalated 90%. Today's children sense the hypocrisy of an adult society telling them to "just say no" when that same society engulfs them with gross displays of sexual indulgence and degeneracy. In fact, the ACLU now warns schools that "teaching that monogamous, heterosexual intercourse within marriage is a traditional American value is an unconstitutional establishment of religion."

Since the Creator is now banned from discussions of creation in the science class and God is ignored as the source of our civil liberties in the social science class, it follows that the traditionally sacred contest of human sexuality, marriage and family has become outlawed and outmoded in the sex education class. The new state program of "Family Life Skills" promises little except controversy.

Sam B. Peavey, EdD
Professor of Education Retired
Louisville

Letters for baptist forum: maximum length, 300 words. Longer letters will be edited for space or returned for revision. Writer's signature, address, phone number and church affiliation required. No form letters will be printed. Letters must deal with issues and not make personal attacks.



Bill D. Whittaker
President
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek chronicle

Thrift shop

An old stone cottage located near Kelly Hall houses the campus thrift shop. Used clothing sells for 25¢ per item and enables our families to stretch their dollars. Pineville First Baptist member Helen Hamilton has voluntarily managed the shop four years. "I am always pleased to meet students who look stylish and fashionable. They tell me every item they are wearing came from the thrift shop."

Clothes come by mail, four groups deliver items collected at their church and staff bring in clothes received on speaking engagements. Richmond First Baptist member Mary Lou Salter delivers a load collected by her Sunday school class each time she attends a trustee meeting. Several Pineville First Baptist ladies regularly bring lovely clothes. The last two years a Florida church has coordinated collections among sixteen other churches and delivered the load in a tractor-trailer truck. The large shipment is displayed on the Kelly Hall lawn.

Pleasant Hill Church, Campbellsville, recently delivered the largest load of quality clothing Mrs. Hamilton has ever received. "They were neatly packed and a pleasure to handle. The ladies were thrilled with the London Fog and Misty Harbor coats and the lovely dresses, skirts and blouses. Suits, pants, shirts, ties, shoes, purses and belts came in such a wide variety of sizes that everyone could enjoy them." Thanks to Bob and Joyce Martin and Campbellsville friends.

The thrift shop also receives some unusable items. Poor sellers are left over yard sale merchandise, molded stored clothes and thirty-year-old clothing. After a reasonable time on sale in the campus shop, Mrs. Hamilton distributes it to a nursing home and church clothes closet. "Many people in these hollows have winter coats they have never had before. A family without money secured a suit, shirt and tie for the burial of their father. Several ladies obtained outfits for a funeral." Student pastors buy things to help needy church members.

Proceeds from the thrift shop go into the Agape Fund for emergency student assistance. Groceries, medicine, auto repair and travel assistance are frequent requests.



Cooperation:

A Southern Baptist Trademark

Baptist Heritage Month
June 1989

For guidelines write the Historical Commission, SBC,
901 Commerce Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37203



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

A loved one fights cancer

"I did not come to the hospital to get well. I came to minister to othes."

So spoke Mary Ann Mallard, teacher of Spanish at Oneida the past six years. She then spoke movingly of roommates in the Corbin Baptist hospital she has had and their spiritual and physical needs.

Mary Ann Mallard has battled cancer for years. Yet she has missed few days of teaching. Radiant with love and faith, few people realized she has any sort of problem.

Charles D. Meigs did not know Mrs. Mallard when he penned the hymn "Others" in 1935. But it might have been written as her living daily testimony.

Lord, help me live from day to day, in such a self forgetful way, that even when I kneel to pray, my prayer shall be for others.

Just a week ago she spoke to our students at the end of the Sunday morning worship. She spoke directly to our foreign students of Moslem and Buddhist heritage. On Tuesday she fell on her way to class. Her legs simply gave way and she was rushed back to the hospital.

Help me in all the work I do, to ever be sincere and true, and know that all I'd do for you, must needs be done for

others.

A lifelong teacher, she and husband Jim heard me speak one September day in 1978 at Vine Grove. Not really aware of Oneida's work they shared with me that God was calling them to full time service at Oneida. "Give us five more years!" they said. "Our youngest of four is just starting eighth grade. We get them through high school. They get themselves through college in our family."

A few weeks later the Mallard family saw Oneida for the first time. Five years later they moved from their home of many years and took a \$28,000 cut in income to begin their ministry with the Oneida family of students, staff and friends.

That was six years ago. In the meantime their three sons and only daughter have gone to college and two sons have served in the military. Their daughter married the son of a 1948 OBI graduate she had fallen in love with before her parents came to Oneida. She is now in graduate school and an expectant mother. The baby will be the first Mallard grandchild.

Some days after the fall feeling had come back into Mrs. Mallard's legs and she could again walk. Her youngest son from Washington and another from New York had come. The daughter held her mother's hand as all sat with their father in the chapel of the hospital. The chapel was packed with Oneida staff members and several students who had come on a sunny Sunday afternoon to worship with Mrs. Mallard.

Mallard read from God's holy word as did others for the next hour and a half. Two of the Mallard boys sang solos. The daughter-in-law to be gave glorious praise to God with her opera trained voice. An Oneida graduate, now an OBI teacher, sang and read a favorite passage of faith.

Let self be crucified and slain, and buried deep; and all in vain may efforts be to rise again, unless to live for others.

Mrs. Mallard challenged the group as she shared of those with needs in the hospital, the group sang "We're standing on holy ground" and Mallard asked me to lead in prayer as a memorable worship service came to a close.

And when my work on earth is done, and my new work in heaven's begun. May I forget the crown I've won, while thinking still of others.

Others, Lord, yes others, let this my motto be, help me to live for others, that I might live like thee.

So it has been, so it is, with Mary Ann Mallard.



H. C. Chilcote
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR MAY 28, 1989

Life and work series

Guidelines for family life

Eph. 5:21-33 Tensions are created in many homes by members who have not discovered what the Bible has to say about the relationship and duties of the various members of the family and by their failing to perform their respective responsibilities.

Much unhappiness would be avoided and many divorces would be averted if these plain and practical admonitions were followed carefully. Since marriage is a mutual affair, each is to esteem the other above all others and demonstrate an affection that is undivided, a purity that is untarnished and a trust that is unwavering. If both husband and wife are right in their relationship to God, their self-giving love will inevitably result in the happiness of the family and the security of the home.

Eph. 6:1-4 The most happy, successful and useful parents are those who are the children of God. From the beginning the submission of children to parents has been the Lord's way and it forms a great foundation upon which the happiness and glory of the home rests.

When parents fail to require respect and obedience of their children in the home, they are only preparing the way for disrespect, disobedience and lawlessness in the lives of their offspring.

Children who are not taught and trained to obey their parents find it exceedingly difficult to obey the laws of the land and the laws of God. If parents will use all diligence in leading their children into a saving knowledge of Christ during the tender years of their childhood and in training them in the ways of the Lord, they will be laying the proper foundation for them for the highest and best things in life. To rear children for the Lord is one of life's great opportunities and mighty challenges.

International series

Trusting God for help

Judges 3:5-8 In the days of Joshua God gave to Israel the land of Canaan as an inheritance. It was clearly understood the Canaanites residing in some of the cities and in certain other areas were yet to be overcome and driven out by the Israelites, but the latter failed to do what they were supposed to do. Because of their disobedience they had to suffer the consequences. It is not surprising that their disobedience to the commandments of God made it necessary for them to be disciplined for their misconduct. And that was true whether they sinned in thought, in attitude, in word or in deed.

While the children of Israel dwelt in close proximity to the Canaanites, they were afforded a splendid opportunity to learn much from them—their manner of life, their methods of farming and their religious practices. Many of them disobeyed God by intermarrying with the pagans and then indulging in the worship of Baal, which he had strictly forbidden them to do.

Judges 3:9-11 After an eight year period of oppression the people began to cry out to God for help. In response to their appeal, God sent them Othniel, a kinsman of Caleb, and empowered him to be a deliverer of the oppressed people. When they repented of their sins, returned to God and cried out to God for a deliverer, God provided a way of escape for them.

Judges 3:12 It was the purpose and will of God for the Israelites to live in Canaan without becoming entangled in sin.

God selected some heroes and heroines, whom he enabled to do his will among his people and for their benefit, and whom he chose to designate as judges and whom he wanted to prove their faithfulness in obedience to the divine commands.



William W. (Bill) Marshall
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, KBC
Box 43433
Middletown, KY 40243

on mission together

Letter from a teacher

I enjoy and appreciate the letters I receive from readers who take their precious time to respond to my column.

A recent letter from a teacher-friend made a deep impression on me. It also reminded me of the teacher-years of my wife, Alice, and the stories she told me about some of her young students.

I hope this "letter from a teacher," abridged and edited slightly to assure anonymity, will be as much a blessing to you as it was to me.

"Your article this week called, 'Tiny faces,' was particularly meaningful to

me. This past week, as I was substituting I had problems with a boy. During class he had stayed back in the classroom, hiding under his desk. During that half hour we had a quiet conversation. I talked and he would at least respond with 'yes' or 'no.'

"I discovered later that his father had abused him as a young child. His mother is alcoholic and his sister suicidal. The boy is said to be in a depressant stage. Is it any wonder?"

"I look at my own children with all the struggles they go through in trying to grow up and wonder what chance a child like Bill (not real name) has with so many additional odds stacked against him.

"In the few minutes I had with him, I tried to encourage him to dig deep within and find some inner strength, not to give up, and to assure him that if he can overcome his circumstances he will grow to be a strong compassionate man. He acknowledged that he was building an invisible wall around himself to

block out the hurt so it wouldn't hurt so bad. I warned him that the only problem with that is the same wall keeps you from feeling the good things too. He seemed to understand.

"I tried to assure him that what others do in his life is not his fault—only what he does himself is his fault.

"After a few minutes he agreed to get out from under the desk and sit in his chair. A few tears had made their way down his cheek. I wanted to take him in my arms and hold him; to assure him that I love him and that God loves him. If I'd had a few more minutes I think I would have ignored school rules and etiquette and done just that.

"What breaks your heart is that he is only one of many who suffer because of the sins of the parents."

Blessed are the teachers of our children! Blessed are the churches which provide nurture, support and encouragement to those teachers. Blessed are the children whose lives are touched by the ministry of a loving teacher.

Sunday school growth spiral tool for planning growth

by Frank White

More than 200 Southern Baptist churches currently are participating in a church growth planning system designed to increase Sunday school enrolment, attendance, baptisms and offerings, reported Andy Anderson, Sunday school growth promotion specialist for the Sunday School Board.

Since it was introduced in 1980 the Sunday school Growth Spiral has been used by almost 2000 churches to organize and plan for growth by using basic Sunday school principles, said Anderson, who developed the plan.

The 207 churches reporting Growth Spiral information for the quarter ending in September 1988 showed baptism increases averaging 105 percent since they began the program, Anderson said.

In Alabama the Growth Spiral has given new life to churches and turned some declining churches into aggressively growing churches, said Andrew Smith, associate director in the Sunday School Department of the Alabama Baptist Convention.

Smith recently presented awards to 12 churches that reported increases averaging 517 in enrolment, 194 in attendance, \$4881 in offerings and 26 in baptisms.

Those churches had participated in the Growth Spiral for an average of two and one half years. They include churches in large cities, small towns, changing communities and new areas, Smith said.

As an example, West Side Baptist Church, Bessemer, started the Growth Spiral in October 1987 and in November 1988 reported an enrolment gain of 183 for a total Sunday school enrolment of 501. Weekly offerings were up from \$5000 to \$13,167, while baptisms moved from none in the year before using the program to nine for the year on the program.

Anderson first used the program with 16 churches in California. Since then more than 700 California churches have participated in the Growth Spiral and conferences in the state have been specialized for language groups.

Texas had 28 churches on the most recent report, for the largest number of

any state convention. Those churches reported net enrolment increases of more than 12,000 since they began the Growth Spiral.

Participation involves reporting a list of 13 statistics to Anderson for a quarterly evaluation.

Some churches drop out of the reporting process and others run out of meeting space and have to stop, Anderson explained.

He described the spiral as an evaluation, planning and administrative tool: "There's nothing but the basics here. The Growth Spiral doesn't have any new programs. It uses the programs that already exist."

By indicating the number of prospects, teaching units, workers and meeting spaces needed to reach goals in Sun-

day school enrolment and attendance, worship service attendance, weekly offerings and baptisms, the program helps a church plan for growth, he said.

While the results of the Growth Spiral are measured in quantity the emphasis is on the quality of church programs, he said, noting, "Without the quality you can forget the quantity."

The quality is involved in creating smaller Sunday school units, training for Sunday school leadership, weekly workers' meetings, visitation, ministry and proper use of literature.

The enrolment emphasis impacts baptisms because an average of half the people enrolled in Sunday school through the use of the program are non-Christians, Anderson said. Usually one out of every two nonChristians enrolled

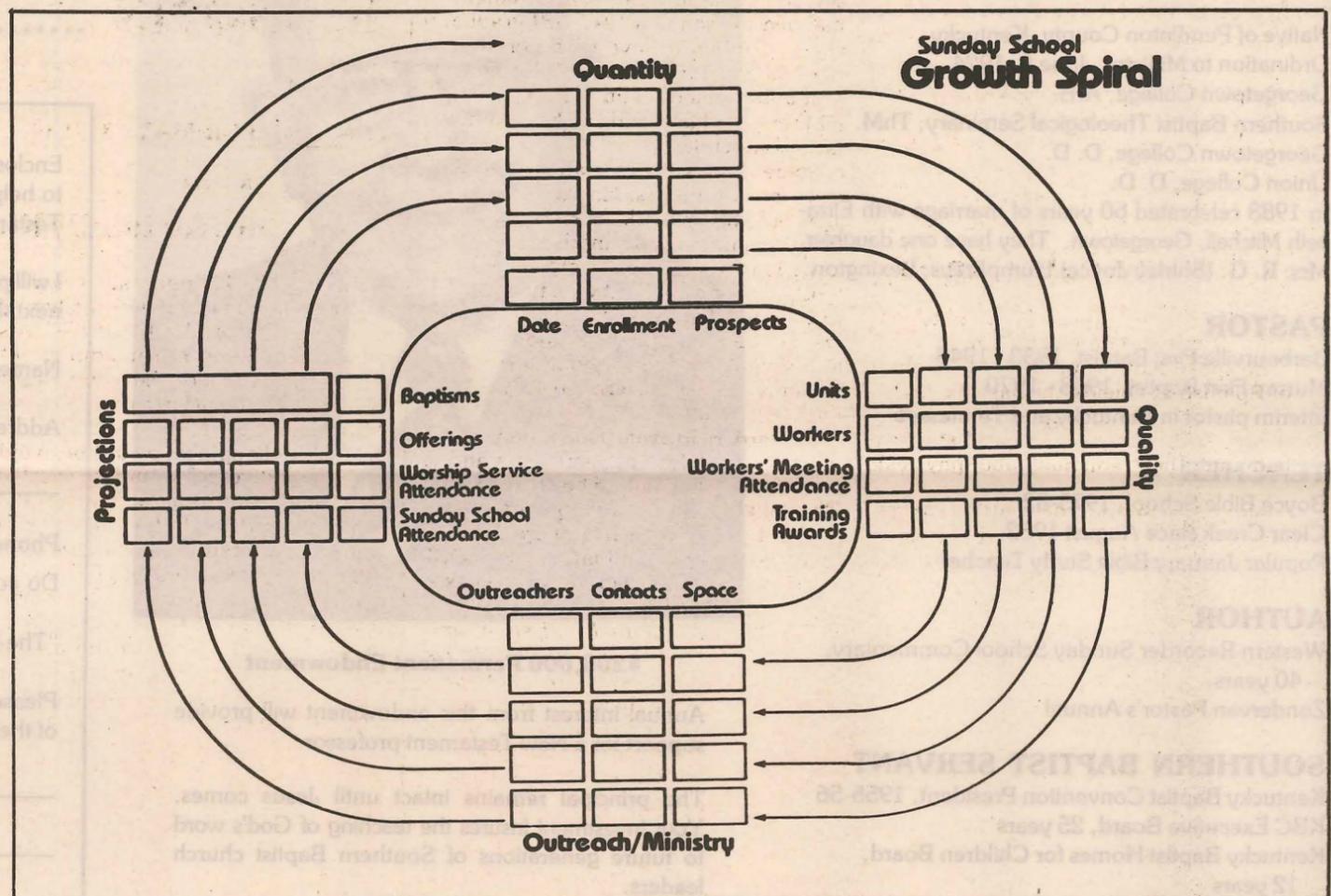
in Sunday school accepts Christ within the first 12 months, he said.

He predicted churches using the Growth Spiral will double their baptisms within the first year.

Anderson conducts about 75 growth conferences each year. Completing the program's chart is the first step but "thousands of churches have filled out the spiral form and don't know what to do with it," he said.

The information on the chart can help a church plan worker enlistment and training, space development and other needs that will be encountered by the growth that is projected, he said.

Anderson predicted that when used properly, the spiral can cut administrative planning time in half by indicating the most immediate needs. (BP)



Robert Burton, distinguished professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

(Photo by Teresa Sullivan)

Professor has conduct of gentleman, scholar

by Pam Alewine

Keep an eye on Robert Burton for a while. Watch him as he directs the 200-voice oratorio chorus at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, leading the student musicians through delicate twists and turns of music.

Then watch him in the hallways of the school of church music as he greets students and colleagues. It doesn't take long to realize that Burton knows how to conduct himself.

That ability to harmonize friendliness with professionalism has guided the distinguished professor of conducting through 33 years at the seminary.

It also helps Burton laugh a lot, such as when he talks about his first music lessons held in a school cafeteria. "If I missed a note the teacher would hit me over the head with a ruler," he said. The ruler and his parents kept Burton practicing piano and clarinet.

After high school Burton served as an Air Force pilot. It was during those years

that music was "used as an outlet" from his daily chores. "Music was part of my life, but it did not rule my life," he said.

Burton received a scholarship to Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, where he earned three degrees and where he met his wife Rosemary.

Burton's skills earned him several awards at LSU. Friends told Burton he should be a choral musician. But his father told Burton he'd be a church musician.

His father knew best. Burton's first two positions after college were in churches.

Burton's move to Southwestern was helped by a college friend, James McKinney, dean of the School of Church Music. The Burtons drove to Ft. Worth, saw the "vista" of brown, and wondered aloud what they'd done.

But 33 years later, Burton is confident he is where God wants him.

"Having students succeed and go out and become great servants of the Lord is the highlight of my career at Southwestern," he said.

A large portion of those students' success is traced to Burton's abilities as a conductor.

"As a conductor, you have to take the blueprint that's been presented to you by the composer and try to recreate it in his understanding and make it live again. It's an awesome responsibility," he said.

Although he takes conducting seriously, Burton said there have been humorous times, even during performances, such as his first recital at Southwestern when Burton was in "full dress." "One wing of my collar flipped out into the wand," he said.

Humor aside, Burton stresses the importance of music in worship.

Giving his best to God and others is Burton's motto as a teacher.

"In ministry you've got to love people," Burton said. "You've got to be interested in people. If you do that, you can lead them eventually," he said.

"You take all of the academic training as 'tools of the trade,'" Burton said, "and you love people."



Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

Announces the

H. C. Chiles

Chair of New Testament

Dr. H. C. Chiles

Distinguished Professor
of New Testament

Native of Pendleton County, Kentucky
Ordination to Ministry, June 8, 1924
Georgetown College, A.B.
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, ThM.
Georgetown College, D. D.
Union College, D. D.
In 1988 celebrated 60 years of marriage with Elizabeth Mitchell, Georgetown. They have one daughter, Mrs. R. G. (Shirley Joyce) Humphreys, Lexington.

PASTOR

Barbourville First Baptist, 1933 - 1948
Murray First Baptist, 1948 - 1970
Interim pastor in Kentucky and Tennessee

TEACHER

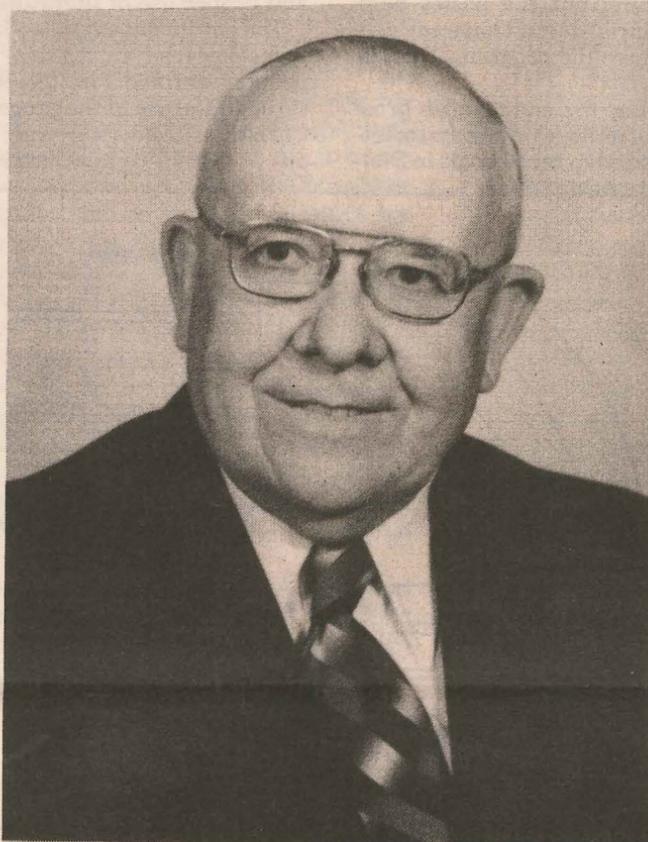
Boyce Bible School, 1975-82
Clear Creek since August 1982
Popular January Bible Study Teacher

AUTHOR

Western Recorder Sunday School Commentary,
40 years
Zondervan Pastor's Annual

SOUTHERN BAPTIST SERVANT

Kentucky Baptist Convention President, 1955-56
KBC Executive Board, 25 years
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children Board,
12 years
Georgetown College Board, 12 years
Golden Gate Seminary Board, 10 years
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Annual interest from this endowment will provide support for a New Testament professor.

The principal remains intact until Jesus comes. Your investment insures the teaching of God's word to future generations of Southern Baptist church leaders.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation manages Clear Creek Baptist Bible College endowment funds.

Your help is needed to endow this crucial teaching position at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. Your gift is tax deductible. Please return the attached form with your gift to: 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977.

Enclosed is \$ _____, my gift to help endow the H.C. Chiles Chair of New Testament.

I will pledge to give \$ _____, over the next three years.

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"The Mountain Voice?" _____

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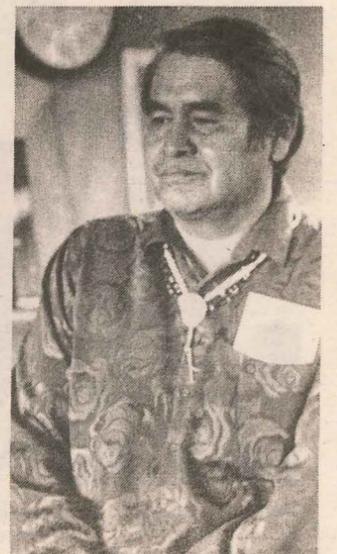
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONORED

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is accredited by the American Association of Bible Colleges. As a member of that association, the college may nominate graduates to membership in Delta Epsilon Chi honor society. The purpose of Delta Epsilon Chi is to encourage and honor outstanding academic scholarship, approved Christian character and Christian leadership ability. The faculty has nominated three 1989 graduates for membership: Linda Rowe McMahan, an honor student and mother of five who also works in the college's development office; Royce Eugene Addis, a ministry student who has pastored Hardy's Creek Baptist Church and is the campus photographer; and William Otha Helton who has pastored Huff Settlement Baptist Church and will continue his education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Alumni who have been graduated for ten years and have manifested outstanding intellectual achievement, approved Christian character, and evident leadership ability in some area of Christian work are eligible for honorary membership. The two alumni nominees for honorary membership are Rev. Edgar Perry and Dr. W. B. Bingham, II. Perry, a 1963 graduate, is Director of the Culture Center, Fort Apache Indian Reservation, White River, Arizona. In addition to active church and denominational participation, he directs a weekly radio program broadcast in the Apache language and teaches Apache culture at Northland Pioneer College. He has translated the New Testament into the Apache language and was named 1989 "Arizona Indian of the Year." Bingham, a 1955 graduate, has pastored Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro, Kentucky for 39 years. Recipient of an honorary doctor of divinity from Cumberland College, he was named A.S. Petrey Mountain Minister of the Year in 1976. Bingham has long been active in association and state level Kentucky organizations and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the state Temperance League.



W. B. BINGHAM, II



EDGAR PERRY